

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05957 071725Z

43

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FDRE-00 MED-02 DHA-02

OES-06 EB-07 /071 W

----- 011760

R 071420Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5957

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, US, SY, LE

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR LEBANON

AID FOR FDA

1. ON SEPT. 6 CHARGE AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, DR. ASPER, CALLED ON MINHEALTH KHIAMI BEFORE ASPER'S RETURN TO BEIRUT LATER SAME AFTERNOON. ASPER EXPRESSED HOSPITAL'S APPRECIATION TO KHIAMI FOR HIS ASSISTANCE OVER PAST MONTHS IN FACILITATING FLOW OF EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO AUH. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED TO KHIAMI AUH'S POLICY OF ACCEPTING ALL COMERS REGARDLESS OF FAITH OR ORIGIN AND PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES TO ALL ON EQUAL BASIS. HE TOLD MINISTER THAT 45 ADDITIONAL AMERICAN NURSE VOLUNTEERS WERE BEING RECRUITED IN U.S. AND WOULD SHORTLY BE TRANSITING DAMASCUS EN ROUTE BEIRUT.

2. MINISTER, WHO IS FORMER PRESIDENT OF AUB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SYRIA, SAID HE HAD BEEN HAPPY TO HELP AND EXPRESSED ADMIRATION THAT ASPER WILLING TO RETURN TO BEIRUT AND TO KEEP AUH FUNCTIONING. MINISTER WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SHORT-TERM FUTURE AND THOUGHT SOME SORT OF CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST WEST BEIRUT COULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05957 071725Z

NOT BE RULED OUT.

3. ASPER ASKED MINISTER'S REACTION TO POSSIBILITY OF STOCKPILING MEDICAL SUPPLIES FROM U.S. AND EUROPEAN SOURCES IN SYRIA FOR DISPATCH AS NEEDED TO VARIOUS HOSPITALS IN LEBANON. KHIAMI REPLIED THAT SARG ITSELF HAD BEEN SENDING LARGE QUANTITIES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO HOSPITALS IN LEBANON, INCLUDING EVEN HOSPITALS IN TRIPOLI, SO MUCH IN FACT THAT OPENING OF NEW SYRIAN HOSPITALS IN HASSAKE AND RQQA HAD HAD TO BE DELAYED. IN ADDITION, HIS BUDGET FOR CURRENT YEAR WAS ALREADY VIRTUALLY EXHAUSTED. HE SAID HE HAD AMPLE ROOM IN HIS OFFICIAL WAREHOUSE FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP ADMINISTER THEIR DISTRIBUTION. MINISTER CAUTIONED THAT CURRENT AUH EMERGENCY SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT TO SET UP AND SHOULD NOT BE TAMPERED WITH.

4. COMMENT: CHARGE AND ASPER READ MINISTER'S REACTION TO STOCKPILING PROPOSAL AS MEANING SYRIA WOULD WANT TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN DISTRIBUTION. WE THOUGHT, THEREFORE, THAT IDEA SHOULD NOT BE FURTHER PURSUED AT THIS TIME.

CURRENT AUH ARRANGEMENT REQUIRES SEALING SUPPLIES BY SYRIAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT FOR DIRECT TRANSIT TO LEBANON. IN ADDITION, COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSE SPACE IN DAMASCUS IS VIRTUALLY UNOBTAINABLE.
PEWLETREAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, MEDICAL CARE, PFOR, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC05957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760338-0001
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760987/aaaacwgz.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR LEBANON AID FOR FDA
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, US, SY, LE
To: SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN ATHENS BEIRUT NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006